The book I read was One Bird by Kyoko Mori.

Fifteen-year-old Megumi is upset by her mother's decision to leave Megumi and return to her father’s home. Megumi's mother cannot bring herself to be honest. She tells her daughter that the move is short, but Megumi knows the truth. Her father's affair with a bartender and his bossy manner has ruined the marriage forever. To make matters worse, Megumi's father says that his wife has dishonored the family. He does not allow Megumi to have contact with her mother and asks Megumi's grandmother, a mean and serious woman to move in with the family.

Megumi attempts to deal with the loss in the only way she knows how. She secretly talks with her mother through letters sent and received through her church pastor. Meanwhile, she finds an abandoned bird and brings it to Dr. Mitzutani, the local veterinarian. As Megumi helps Dr. Mitzutani care for numerous injured birds, the doctor helps Megumi come to terms with her own feelings of abandonment as well as the guilt she has due to misleading her father and grandmother. As an open-minded, single woman, Dr. Mitzutani also offers the hope of breaking free from restrictive community norms.

I thought the book was alright. It did not really matter to me. If I had to pick if I would read it again or not, I probably would because I did not understand it very well the first time through. Some parts went through one ear and out the other, I would say. I did like the story plot because it shows this one girl going through so many changes to find her inner strength and confidence that she always had just never knew she did. I liked that the main character was a girl because when it was a guy I do not really understand it very well. If it had been a guy as the main character I think I would not have understood any of it then, and I barely got some parts of the book to begin with. I also like how through the entire book you get a sense of what Japan’s culture is, and since I am not any part Japanese it kind of helped me understand the book more.

I recommend this to people who want to see what it is like for the people who live in Japan or to people wants to learn stuff about their culture. I also recommend this to people who like to read books that have a setting in Japan or where the main character is a girl, whether she be Japanese or not. As well to people who like stories with drama and some upsetting moments, like whenever she is with her grandmother. I also recommend this to people who like dynamic characters. The main girl, Megumi, is dynamic because she goes through changes to find herself, so if you like dynamic characters, that have an actually good story, and then I think this book might be for you.